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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

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Tuesday - 13 September 55

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25X1 [redacted] of CI Staff discussed with Mr. Houston and myself a letter addressed to DD/P, dated 29 July 1955, from Mr. William Tompkins, Assistant Attorney General for Internal Security Affairs. This letter referred to a request the Department received in a letter of 11 April from Sen. Eastland, Chairman of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, requesting that the Department turn over to the Committee all of the documents seized in the Amerasia case. Senator Eastland pointed out that the contents of these documents must have long since come into the possession of the Soviet, but that the American people and even the Senate Committee were not allowed to see them. He asks that they be declassified and turned over. As a good many of these documents were of OSS origin, the Department of Justice has requested our review of these to determine whether they can be turned over. (In addition, the Department of Commerce has asked us to advise them informally regarding three documents in their possession from the standpoint of possible declassification).

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